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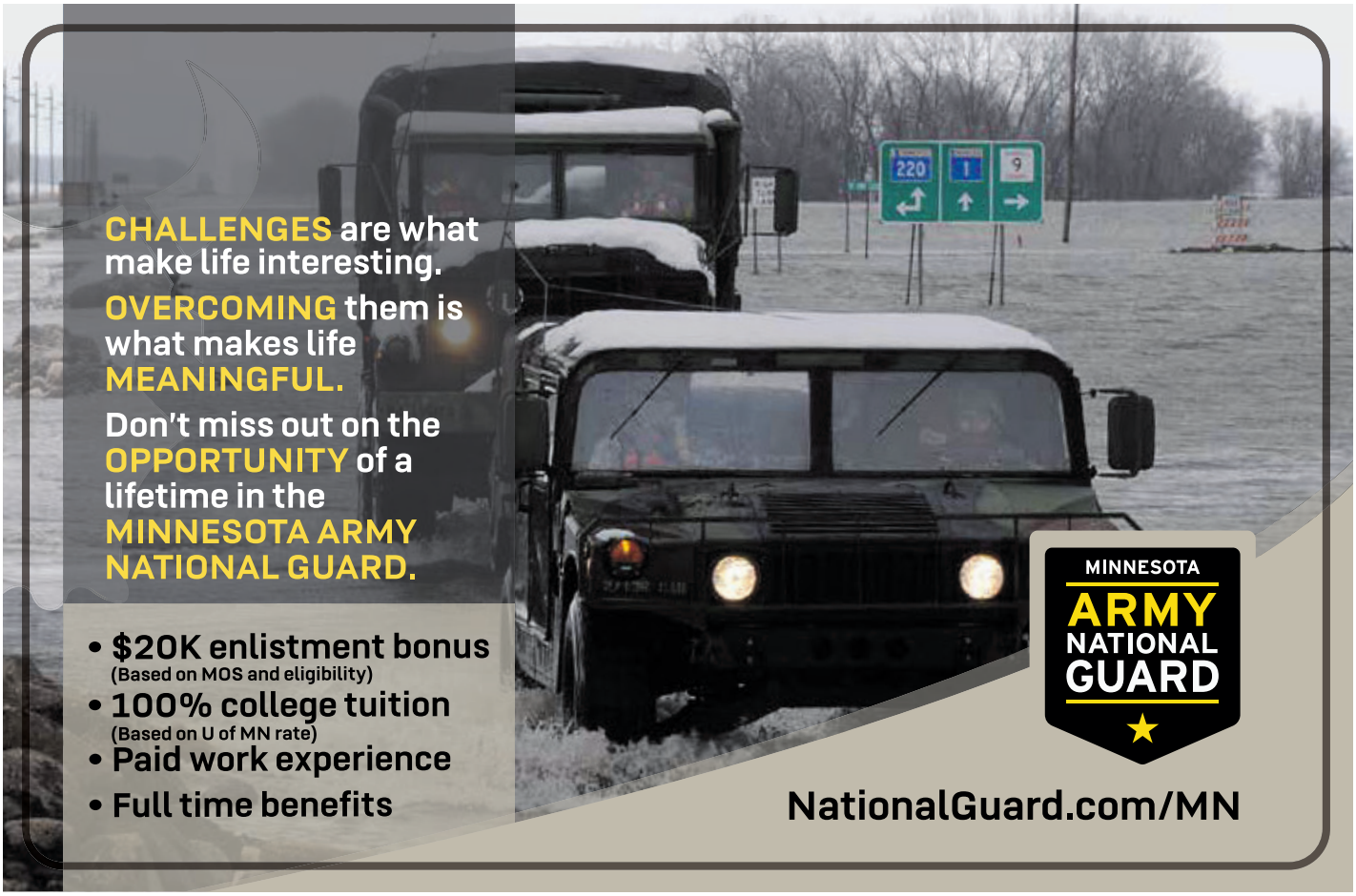

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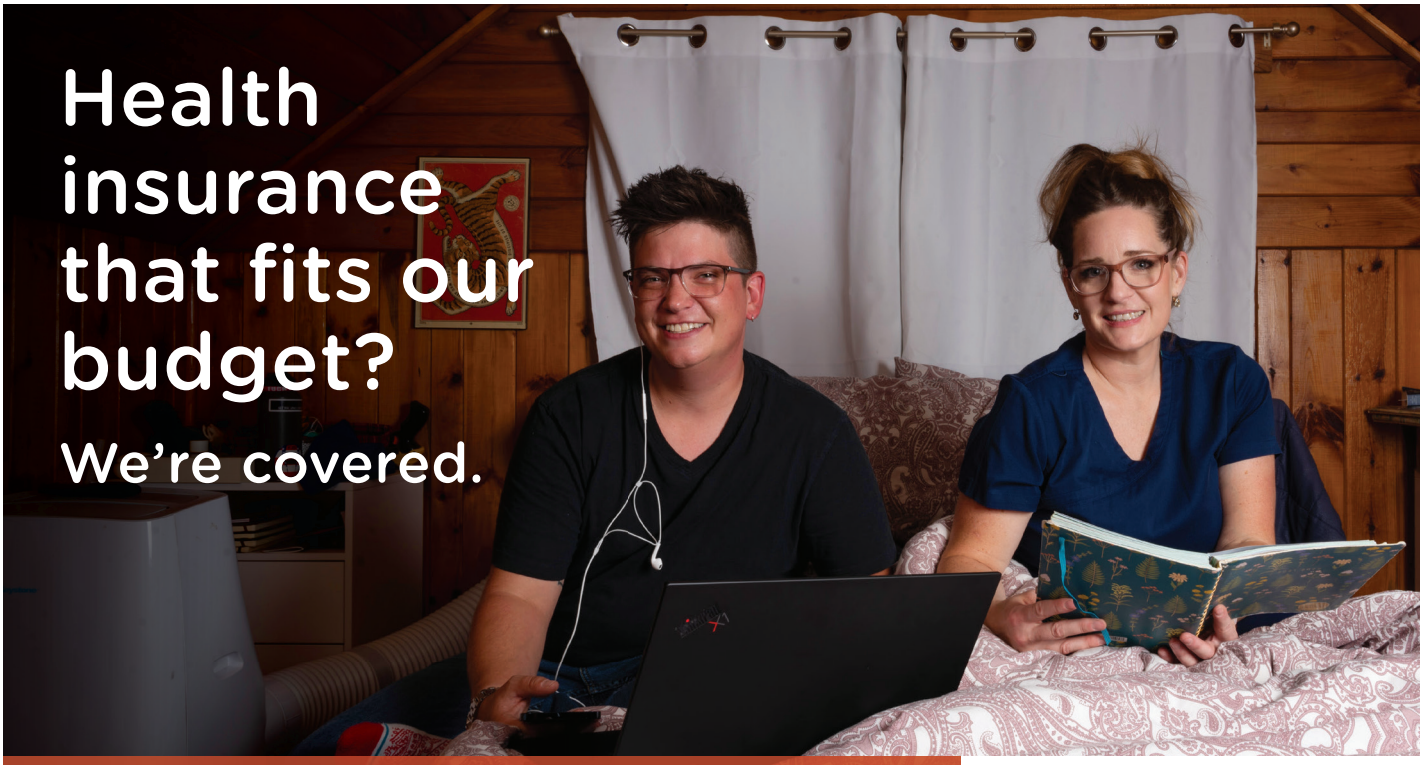

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My Only Gift Suggestion This Season

BY RANDY STERN

Our annual Holiday Gift Guide comes right before Thanksgiving. Not because we know that you plan on doing your shopping before the feast. That seems to be the pattern we're seeing lately. Maybe to avoid "Black Friday"?

Let's be honest: The traditional gift-giving, family-visiting, travel headache-inducing season is upon us! What will you get? Something special you always wanted? Or, a lump of coal?

Gift-giving is always a never-ending cycle of "what to get someone who has everything, but you have to give them something no matter what." Not that we want you to be jaded about this time of year. Hopefully, the opposite.

Given this issue's theme, I found something quite compelling. Earlier this year, I saw a meme floating around here suggesting that for Christmas, Hannukah, or, any gift-giving holiday that you give a musical instrument instead of something, well, harmful.

That's a great idea! In fact, I'll start this issue off by suggesting it!

I can vouch to the power of music to warm one's hearts, stoke the inner creative soul, and to give people a creative outlet towards improving one's mental/emotional health. Music has benefits, folks!

Photo courtesy of the Lexus Division, Toyota Motor North America

What kind of financial commitment one has to have when getting and gifting a musical instrument?

Let's see…

Most of us would consider a guitar. One of the best electric guitars one can give is a Fender Stratocaster. The guitar manufacturer sells various levels of Strats – from affordable Squier models to Custom Shop specials. That's not even including an amplifier, cords, and effect pedals.

Pricing for one of these iconic guitars can cost you a lot. Custom Shop Stratocasters run from about $4,000 up past $10,000. Squiers can run from over $100, with American Classic Stratocasters getting into the $1,000-plus territory.

Don't like the idea of an electric guitar in your home? How about an acoustic guitar?

They are light, portable, and give you one of the most beautiful sounds in the universe. You can get away with an affordable guitar that you can learn from. Some good starter guitars are available in the $100-200 range. Better ones can range from $800 to over $3,000.

To be honest, I do not play a guitar. I play hand drums myself. They run about the same price range as guitars. They also have a wider choice of kinds of drums to play. YouTube has many videos explaining everything from which drum to choose from, their price range, to playing techniques, and so forth.

This is just one of several gift suggestions that are in this issue. Peruse our issue. See something you like? Put that on your gift list!

Plus, we cover some entertainment choices for the upcoming holiday season. The Minnesota Opera and Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus have plans for this coming season. Hopefully you are making yours!

'Tis the season! Enjoy it! And, Happy Thanksgiving! And, of course Happy Holidays! ∎

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Dare You See Wonderful Things?

BY E.B. BOATNER

Through whose eyes, were you granted such a wish, would you choose to see what they see? For an instant, an hour, a particular passage of time? I'm not accepting interests in cruelty, the defeat of your enemy; just a glimpse into a high moment, a sublime hour, a magic afternoon.

Ron Turcott aboard Secretariat, seeing an empty field before them as they thundered 31 lengths beyond the pack, winning the 1973 Belmont (and Triple Crown) in an unbroken 2:24 minutes?

Simone Byles, American; Nadia Comăneci; Romanian, stars in a splendid galaxy of women gymnasts. Fly with Nadia, the first to achieve a perfect 10 or Simone who pushed women's gymnastics to new heights: could you keep your eyes open through a routine?

Abraham Lincoln did not, contrary to popular myth, just "dash off" those 272 lines in a last-minute rush; five known copies exist in his hand. Would you choose to see his compositions take shape, or look out over the crowd he saw on November 19, 1863 as he shared that version of immortal words?

Could you bear watching through Van Gogh's eyes as he limned the lines and colors of "Corridor in the Asylum" during his year in the mental hospital in Saint-Remy-de- Province? Too overpowering? He also looked out beyond the bars and created "Almond Blossom," "Wheatfield with Cypresses," "Starry Night," "Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear," and a multitude of others.

Pick an unknown the past and spend a day erecting monolithic heads on Easter Island, dragging blocks to Stonehenge, carving a gargoyle spout on Notre Dame in young Paris.

When I was about eight, my dad took me to New York. I remember vividly a museum with a display of towering, columns. As we walked between the pillars I looked up and up; the dim, filtered light captivated me. Dad explained that they were replicas of those the ancients built in a land called Egypt. (This was about 1949, so not part of the Met's Temple of Dendur, accessioned in 1967.

During college in Boston, I'd go to the Museum of Fine Arts and visit a particular sarcophagus, now no longer listed (returned)? "Ancient Egyptian Art" was the only 9AM class I ever willingly attended, earning my sole A(minus) during my 4-years.

The date of my personal answer to the question above was November 26, 1922. In 1917, a wealthy British Lord hired a British archaeologist to hunt for a young Egyptian pharaoh's tomb. Over the years, bits of jars, shreds of linen bearing the young man's name had been found, but the general opinion was that everything in the area had been found.

The British Lord, George Edward Stanhope Molyneux Herbert, Fifth Lord of Carnarvon, holder of the permits, wanted to pack it in, but archaeologist, Howard Carter, begged for more time in the Valley of the Kings. Three days later, a set of steps leading down was discovered. Some 150-200,000 tons of rubble later, Lord Carnarvon was alerted, arriving November 23. Another doorway bore the name "Nebkheperure," the throne title of Tutankhamun. Making a hole in the next door, Carter, holding a candle, peered in.

"Can you see anything?" said the impatient Lord."Yes," breathed Carter, "I see wonderful things! Wonderful things!" I want to look through his eyes. Then. Still. ∎

QUORUM SECTION

QUORUM SECTION

TWIN CITIES LGBT + ALLIED BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Under The Tuscan Sun

BY CARLA WALDEMAR

Guide Gemma points out landmarks from a piazza above the city of Florence. Photos by Carla Waldemar

"Allora!" This is Inez talking. She's the leader of our Smithsonian Journeys program enabling participants (26 of us) to live in Florence, Italy for three weeks. It means "listen up" or "well, then" or "okay." It got our attention as we settled into our apartments in the working-class neighborhood that would be our home for the duration.

Our group got its bearings on Day One via a tour around the neighborhood's piazza, our go-to site for groceries ("Non toccare! —"Don't touch!" chastised the fruit seller when—foolish me—I tried to pick out my own oranges), along with a pharmacy, gelateria, coffee bar and trattoria. Emma, who would be our guide on museum visits as well, taught us, first of all, how to cross a street: "Treat the drivers like dogs," she counseled. "Just look them down sternly and proceed."

She then trained us in how to ride the tram into the historic city center (four stops on the always-packed train on which, as far as I could observe, no Italians ever paid for their ride). Then, out with the map that would be my lifesaver when wandering in our many days of free time, punctuated by the group's guided museum visits: a huge bonus because our pre-arranged entrance tickets allowed us to skip the blocks-long lines at all the must-see spots.

Yes, I'd been to Florence several times before, always in a rush from palazzo to museum to famous church to dinner. This visit, there was plenty of time to "fare niente"—to foster the Italian love of "doing nothing"—which, in my case, translated to visiting and revisiting my favorite bold-name artists' works on the very spot where the Renaissance got its start in the late 1300s. And hanging out on the plentiful piazzas, watching the world go by.

I'd wander into Santa Maria Novella to gawp at the church's breakthrough painting by Masaccio, who first showed the world how to use perspective to liven the former flat line-up of saints. Then I sat right under Giotto's earlier, earnest Crucifixion and absorbed its intense message.

Another day, I'd arrive before the crowds at the Monastery of San Marco, where Fra Angelico (he's the one whose chubby cherubs are featured on many a Christmas card) painted a fresco scene in each of the monks' tiny cells. I'd climb the hill to San Miniato, an ancient church of severe black and white marble, where saints with gold dinner-plate haloes and dark, piercing eyes gleamed through the shadows.

The courtyard of the Bargello National Museum

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Tour leader Inez (left) leads the group to the oldest cafe in Florence, Caffé Gilli. Statue of David by Michelangelo at the Accademia Gallery. Photo courtesy of Bigstock/jkaufmann88

I guided myself through the Bargello—hands down, the best collection of sculpture in town, or perhaps the world, including David as interpreted by Verocchio as a smug young dandy who'd just got the best of Goliath, and David by Donatello—this time in the nude, which hadn't been attempted since the time of the ancient Greeks. Later—"Allora!"—Emma elbowed us front-and-center to gaze on Michelangelo's own colossal David at the Accademia.

I returned time after time to the church called Santa Croce to give homage to the bold names of the Renaissance and beyond who lie buried here: Michelangelo himself (it was his parish church), Dante, Rossini and more. As a group, we pushed through the throngs at the Uffizi—Italy's premier art museum— while Emma educated us on the development of techniques that revolutionized the art universe, then and today. Solo again in the Medici Chapel, I blanched at the larger-than-life tombs of Cosimo and Lorenzo Medici, the power duo of their day, sculpted by their protégé and houseguest, Michelangelo.

Life on the streets in 2022 proved just as mesmerizing as life in the 1600s. Wandering without a plan led me across the famed Ponte Vecchio Bridge into Oltrarno, the working-class neighborhood on the far side of the Arno River. Leaving behind the masses of tourists, I had the streets to myself.

I bargained for curios in dusty shops, stopped for an alfresco lunch of tagliatelle noodles with wild mushrooms at an outdoor table, paused for vino at another square while watching kids chase pigeons. As dusk descended, I made my way back to the tram station and my apartment, wishing—I admit—I were one of the couples marching two by two to dinner. Loneliness gave way to hunger, so I headed to the neighborhood piazza and feasted on gnocchi with walnuts, pears and Gorgonzola sauce and a large glass of vino rosso. Life was good again.

Basilica of Santa Croce in Florence

Another advantage of travelling in this like-minded group was that the clever folks organizing our schedules planned getaways by private bus into the Tuscan hills several days a week. We explored the winding streets of Cortona, the town of "Under the Tuscan Sun" fame; the shell-shaped piazza of Siena, where tournaments are re-enacted in front of its fabulous (more art!) cathedral; the traffic-free streets of Lucca, enclosed by walls you can surmount to patrol the city; Chianti country for a wine tasting; a peep at ancient Roman and Etruscan sites atop Fiesole's hills. And, as they say, more!

It wouldn't be Europe without challenges to add to the drama—first, a strike by transportation workers in Florence, then, more daunting, another one shutting down the airport in Paris through which many of our return flights were channeled. But the food alone—never mind the art—made up for the stress: a pizza night arranged by Inez: "Allora! The best pizzeria in Florence!" she promised (one taste and no arguments from us); a feast of the famous Florentine beefsteak born of the region's special cattle; gelato at Perche Non? ("Why Not?"); and pastries at Gilli, aside the buzzy Piazza Republica with its revolving carousel.

Curious? To live like a local (with benefits), contact Smithsonian Journeys (855-330-1542 or www.smithsonianjournies.org), pack your bag and forget your diet. ∎

The walls of Lucca

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Holidazzle. Photo by Dusty Hoskovec Photography

The Joy of the European Christmas Market: Right Here in Minnesota

BY LINDEN M. BAYLISS

"after a time when spirits weren't as bright, it is our hope that together we can bring a little more joy into the world."
–The team at The Northern Express

Sprinkle some extra joy onto your holiday season this year…come experience the *Christkindlmarkt*.

Christmas markets, aka *Christkindlmarkt*, are a European tradition that dates all the way back to the Late Middle Ages, the first of their kind being held in Dresden back in 1434. These are places for loved ones to gather and include open-air stalls filled with seasonal goods, music, food, and drink. Many spots in Minnesota are bringing the magic from Europe to the Midwest, here are some of the places you can check out for yourself this year.

Reindeer. Photo courtesy of The Northern Express

Duluth Winter Village

If you're in the northern part of the state, check out The Duluth Winter Village, held for one weekend only, Saturday and Sunday Dec. 3 and 4 outside at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center on Harbor Drive in Duluth. This market focuses on supporting local vendors – only northern Minnesota local vendors are participating, and there will be 40 plus of them, selling their unique goods out of custom-built cabins! This market and festival features campfires by the lake, open skating at the DECC from 2:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. both days, and a petting zoo with animals from Ru-Ridge farm. Come support northern local businesses and enjoy the beauty of Lake Superior! Admission is free.

The Landmark Center's 44th Annual Old-Fashioned Holiday Bazaar

The Landmark Center in St. Paul is hosting their annual Old-Fashioned Holiday Bazaar for three days, Dec. 1, 2, and 3. This market has been happening for decades and is one to check out if you haven't already. This bazaar features all handcrafted items including jewelry, woodwork, ceramics, paintings, bath products and the like, all artists with booths make and sell their own work. On Thursday and Friday night they are hosting a twilight shopping special – enjoy a complimentary glass of wine or soft drink if shopping from 4:00 p.m-7:00 p.m. those nights. The bazaar will also include festive music and delicious treats. It is only $5 to attend and children under 12 are free.

The Northern Express

The Northern Express isn't just any market, it's a Christmas extravaganza! In its second year, this true Santa's village will be open Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays Dec. 3-18 at Camp Fire Minnesota's beautiful property in Excelsior. Great for the whole family, here you can interact with a colorful cast of Christmas characters, enjoy a holiday market, bonfires, a lighted Christmas tree forest, reindeer and llamas, scavenger hunts, bingo and more, all included with your ticket. Looking for extra fun? Check out the Nordic spa hosted by Cedar and Stone Nordic Sauna for a session of relaxation, and if the kids need some extra morning magic, sign up for a character breakfast! The last weekend of the Northern Express will feature a Festival of Lights Hannukah celebration. *Regular admission is $20 for adults and $15 for children*.

Holidazzle in Loring Park

The Holidazzle is still here to dazzle us in 2022. They host their winter village every Friday-Sunday Nov. 25-Dec. 18 in our own Loring Park

Continue on page 16

RIDER : ELIAS LAMM
PHOTO : JOSHUA POEHLEIN

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neighborhood! The Holidazzle in Loring Park will feature local foods, beverages and shopping from area small businesses as well as interactive art installations, kids activities, fire pits, photo ops, amusement rides and more. And yes, the man in red will be attending so you can tell him all of your wishes this year. One of our favorite attractions is the Holidazzle Yeti, an interactive illuminated art installation by local artist Chrisopher Lutter-Gardella. Don't forget about the Saturday night fireworks happening every Saturday of the festival! The Holidazzle is a free event for all.

Excelsior *Christkindlsmarkt*

If you are too busy in December and need your Christmas magic early, check out the Excelsior Christkindlsmarkt being held Nov. 25, 26 and 27 in the Excelsior East Public Parking Lot. This market will kick off with the Grande Parade on Water Street on Friday morning. Here you can meet Alaskan Reindeer and Alpacas, watch a Finnish kicksled demo, hear the sweet melodies of a Christmas string concert and the River City Singers, see the children's lantern parade, and even be enchanted by a visit from a frozen princess. Artisan and food vendors will include strudel, wellness products, toys, pierogi, vegan candles, brats, soup and much more! Tickets can be purchased for $5, for a three day pass and for extra fun you can pay $10.

European Christmas Market at Union Depot

If you want to see the "only authentic Christmas market in Minnesota running through the advent season" come and see the European Christmas Market at St. Paul's Union Depot, open Friday-Sunday every weekend from Nov. 25-Dec. 18. This incredibly traditional open-air market will feature local crafters and food vendors including iPierogi, Oh Crepe! Creperie, Doodletown Toys, German-crafted Herrenhuter star ornaments, and PhoenixFire Copper Art to name a few. There will also be traditional-style live music including holiday accordion, organ grinders, a ukulele singer, and Irish dancers. This event is free of charge!

Julmarknad Handcraft Market and Festival at The American Swedish Institute:

For a Christmas market with a Scandinavian twist, check out the American Swedish Institute's *Julmarknad*, held on-site Dec. 3 and 4. Check out "Tomte Viking" Christmas ornaments by Ilrid Vikings, upcycled Nordic wearables from Steller goods, and Nordic-inspired pottery from Kilns of Flanders. There will also be pop-up musical performances, family crafts, story time, festive foods and take-home hand projects. Be on the lookout for Tomte Kajsa, he may be wandering around! This market is $10 for members, $15 for non-members, $6 for kids, and free for ages 5 and under.

Dayton's Project Winter Maker's Market:

Dayton's is back for their second annual Winter Maker's Market in their renovated Dayton's Project building on Nicollet Mall. The winter market has been a new tradition for them since the closure of Macy's in 2017. This market will take place *every day* November 17 – January 13, this is the winter market with the most open days and hours this season. They will have 64 vendors this year including Red Wing Shoes and Sandborn Canoe Co. and are even bringing back those nostalgic Christmas feelings by including their classic street-side window displays. The market is free to attend. ∎

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Shopping From Local LGBTQ Artisans and Designers

BY ANALISE PRUNI

Photo courtesy of Burning Dreams

Here are some fabulous holiday gift ideas from local up-and-coming queer identifying and queer-friendly creators!

Embrace Wear

Eric Pothen, creator of Embrace Wear, calls himself a middle school teacher by day and an eating disorder advocate by night.

After struggling for several years with an eating disorder and then fighting his way out of that space, he was inspired to share his story on social media.

"The number of people that had a connection to or were struggling with an eating disorder was really eye opening to me," Eric said. "After receiving that kind of feedback it served as motivation and fuel to figure out how to open the door to having more conversations around eating disorders and body image."

He began his advocacy work and soon decided that he wanted to create a more widespread effect and message.

He brainstormed what was at the root of his eating disorder advocacy work and the word that stood out the most was 'embrace'.

"Really at the end of the day it comes back to us needing to love and embrace ourselves for who we are as a person and care less about the physical appearance that we have."

So he started Embrace Wear, which began with shirts and small gifts and is expanding a little at a time. The word "embrace" is printed on all of the clothing.

"It's a simple word but my hope is that people look at that shirt and say 'what exactly does that mean?' and it begins those conversations around eating disorders and disordered eating."

Photos courtesy of Eric Pothen

Some of Eric's other wares include self-love crystal bracelets. One is made of rose quartz, which is known as the universal crystal of love. The second is hematite, which represents transforming negative emotions into positive ones to create more space for self-love, according to Eric.

Ten percent of Embrace Wear proceeds go to Melrose Center, an eating disorder clinic with several locations around the Twin Cities area.

"Just some words of inspiration; you're worth it. The relationship with yourself and the narrative that goes on within is so important and so really just love and embrace yourself for who you are.

Etsy Page: www.etsy.com/shop/embracewearco
Instagram: @embracewearco, @epothen
Podcast: Embracing You (on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and Podbean)

Continue on page 20

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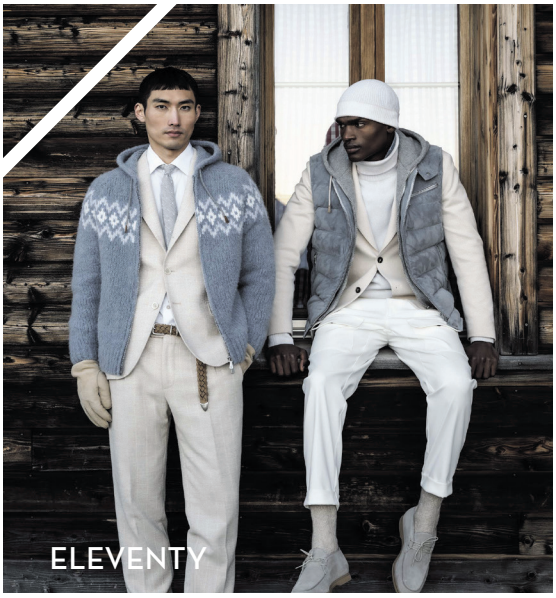

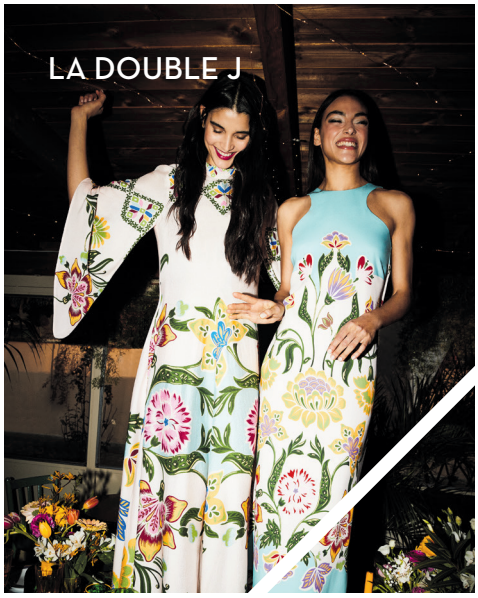

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"Primary Colors in Flux" Photo courtesy of Artgasm

Interplanetary Artgasm

Krista Louise, creator of Artgasm, always liked the idea of being creative, but would get stuck on the idea that it needed to be perfect.

"Abstract' opened up my idea of art, so I could paint without the pressure of it needing to be perfect," she said.

"Painting is helpful to process emotions for me. When I first started painting, I was in an abusive relationship, and painting gave me a sense of freedom and independence, which helped me get away from that person. Now I keep painting to help with day-to-day things that come up, as well as depression and anxiety. It's like journaling, with a sensory aspect."

"All my work is created using secondhand materials, including the paint and the surfaces. For example, I have painted on canvas, wooden boxes, cardboard, and ceramic."

One of her favorite gift suggestions for this holiday season, especially for music lovers, are painted vinyl record LPs and 45s with funky color schemes.

"If you want to create art, do it. You don't need it to be perfect, you don't need fancy materials or years of education. Go to a thrift store and pick up whatever supplies speak to you and have fun with it."

krislouiseart@gmail.com
Instagram: @interplanetaryartgasm DM for purchase inquiries

Trixi's Twisted Wands

Trixi Del Mar has been a drag performer and costume maker for more than 12 years. Some of the garments they've created for other Queens have appeared on "RuPaul's Drag Race."

When the pandemic hit and Trixi could no longer perform in bars and the retail shop they worked at closed, they made a magic wand with materials lying around the studio…and then they made another.

Mushroom Sun Catcher. Photo courtesy of Trixi's Twisted Wands

"It's grown into the best job I've ever had," Trixi said. "While the over 500 wands I've made have been popular and beloved by their owners, I decided to branch out and see if there would be any interest in a craft item I had made for myself long before I ever made wands: glow in the dark mushrooms."

They recommend the glow-in-the-dark mushroom bottles as their most popular gift. Or, the mushroom suncatchers, which create rainbow prisms in sunlight, and glow at night. If you're thinking of stocking stuffers and are on a budget, try out the miniature glow mushroom bottles! They're hoping to have more wands in stock in time for the holiday season.

Trixi has always been inspired by the fantasy genre. "Being able to create an object that belongs in those worlds, which a person can handle and experience themselves, makes the fantasy a little more real, and I've found that we can all use a little more of that these days."

"Everything I make is sculpted from scratch by hand, without molds, so each piece is just a little different and unique, which means that I'm constantly coming up with new ideas and styles!

Follow Trixi's Twisted Wands on Facebook, Instagram and Etsy. com/shop/trixistwistedwands
Most glow in the dark mushroom bottles: $42
Mushroom sun catchers: 3 sizes, $35-$85
Miniature mushroom glow bottles: $7-$10

Photo courtesy of Burning Dreams

Burning Dreams

Kai and Amber kick-started their business Burning Dreams about a year ago, which features wood burned signs, handmade soy candles and other gifts – all made from repurposed or recycled materials.

"We always knew that each other was kind of crafty and when we started seeing each other we would do small crafts together and then I just kept whipping out stuff," Kai said.

Amber handles the wood burning projects while Kai makes the candles. "The Burning Dreams name came about because candles burn and I burn wood so it just flowed together," Amber said. "I do a lot of nature stuff and trees and anything out in nature is kind of my favorite thing to burn and make into signs."

Every craft show they've participated in this past year has been more successful than the last and they're excited to grow their business into other creative outlets such as photography-based projects, sewn goods and scarves and even more custom work. They recommend their custom signs for homes or cabins with the holiday season fast approaching!

"I'm outdoorsy. I like getting drunk on patios." is one of their favorite signs along with a welcome sign that reads "Go Away" in classic passive-aggressive Minnesotan fashion.
Instagram: @burningdreamscrafts
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Holiday Wine

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One of my favorite gifts is to pick a wine that I enjoy with a particular dish and give that wine along with the recipe. As you can imagine, this covers a lot of gift-giving territory. The combinations are almost infinite.

Sharing new wine discoveries is a wonderful holiday gift. For example, if your friend likes Rosé wine, why not give a box of three of your favorite Rosés. What a great showing. The same would apply to Cabernets, Pinot Noirs, Sauvignon Blancs, and Chardonnays.

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LUCE SINCE 1993

"Upscale Sound"

In Its 42nd Year, the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus Continues to Build

BY TERRANCE GRIEP

When Krystle Carrington battled Alexis Colby for fun and profit, when Lady Diana Spencer became a Princess and an icon, when a block-shaped, mass-produced plastic rainbow baffled and delighted the entire planet, it began. Its complexion would change constantly with the constantly changing times, but, in spite of those changes, the purpose of the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus has remained the same: "Gay Men Building Community Through Music."

The first implementation of this purpose was its grimmest. "Initially, the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus sang for many AIDS-related funerals and memorial services," recounts TCGMC artistic director Doctor Gerald Gurss. "The chorus became a life raft for getting some of the gay community through the AIDS crisis."

Oh, yeah—that. In addition to being the days of Krystle versus Alexis and the freshly-minted Princess Icon and the baffling rainbow block, the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus began its existence, not coincidentally, as the HIV virus, intractable and untreatable, tore through the gay community worldwide, propelled by wave after deadly wave of ignorance and apathy, terror and blame.

During its first decade of existence, therefore, the TCGMC made a point of leaving off the G. "An effort to protect the singing membership was one of the reasons 'Gay' wasn't in the name in 1981," TCGMC Executive Director Kevin Stocks remembers. Adds Gurss, "Many singers at that time did not want their names printed in concert programs or chorus-related materials for fear of losing their jobs or being outed to their employers, churches, and families."

Of course, it's hard to build community through music or manhood or anything else when that community is veiled in figurative shadow. "Society couldn't change without visibility," Stocks insists. "It was important for people to know another gay person in order to change previously held views. It's harder to hate what you know and can relate to."

In 1991, the group added one key syllable to its name—the G-word–and in so doing brought representation to one of society's most underrepresented (literal) voices. "As the political environment seemed to become more receptive to gay people, the need to tell our truth emerged," says Gurss. "Progress is not made in the closet."

Under its new, representy banner, the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus furthered its purpose as that first decade turned into its second, then its third, then its fourth. That purpose persists today, adjusted to the current times. "In 2022, TCGMC has broadened its focus to advocate for many different underrepresented voices in need of social justice," Gurss observes. "Recent advocacy concerts have explored gender identity,

Photo courtesy of Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus

race, HIV stigma, the sexual abuse of women, and substance abuse."

That broadened advocacy will be on full display when the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus launches its forty-second season with "Prance?", ("The story of Santa's reindeer from Prancer's perspective," according tcgmc.org), "unSEEN" ("Exploring intersections with neurodiversity, mental health, and queer identity"), and the precisely titled "and IIIIIIII…" ("The music of Whitney Houston. Need we say more?") which span the coming winter, spring, and summer.

The responsibility of inserting a new yellow brick into a heritage that's over forty years old is not lost on the Executive Director. "I do feel pressure to be one of the caretakers of an institution such as TCGMC," Stocks admits. "It's a rich history and an important legacy."

Then again, such a legacy ensures…well, sureness. Proclaims Gurss, "I feel a sense of security working with a well-established organization whose members have decided they love the organization enough to sing and contribute their resources to the community for forty-two years."

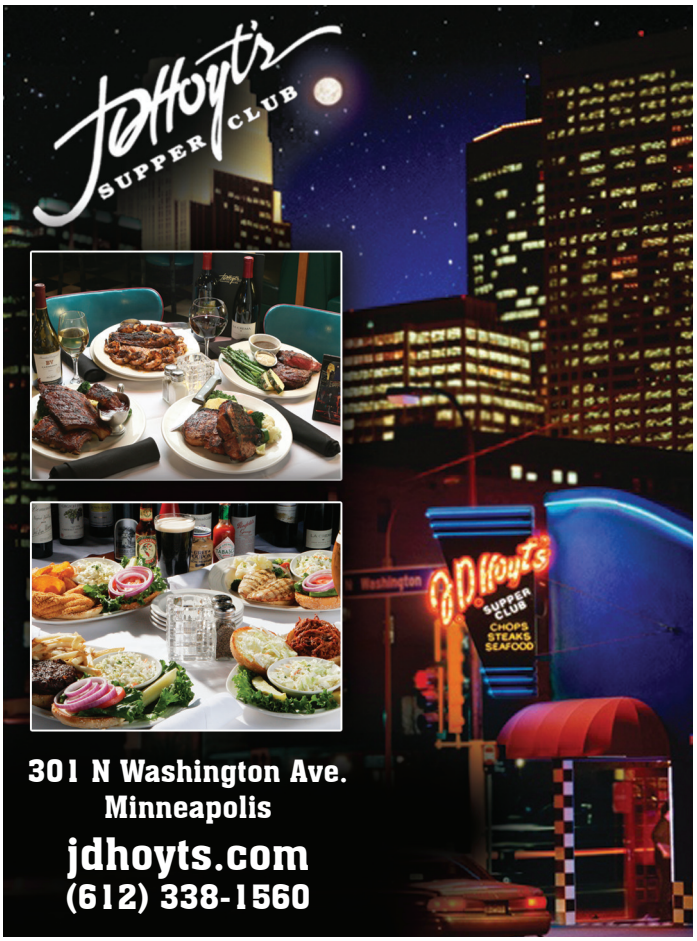
That long love invites reflection. "The advantage of the history is knowing what has been successful and also examining what has not so you can make better decisions moving forward," Gurss assures. "Building a group from the ground up would be much more intimidating."

Ensuring the continuation of this legacy means, paradoxically, being mindful of the here and the now. "In order to be relevant for another forty-plus years, it's imperative to adapt with the times and to be constantly questioning what and how we do things," Stocks says. "The pandemic forced that upon us, and that's one of the things for which I'm grateful."

Over the seasons and the reasons, the TCGMC has built community, within the demographic of "gay men"…and beyond. Notes Gruss, "Our work is not only done on stage, but also through engagement singing in the community and through video collaborations with various community partners such as Pride Institute, Veterans Association, Sexual Assault Survivors Memorial, Clare Housing, and Aliveness Project, to name a few."

Its complexion has changed constantly with the constantly changing times, but, in spite of those changes, the purpose of the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus has remained the same: "Gay Men Building Community Through Music." Its current Artistic Director, however, is determined not just to build community–he's determined to improve it as it's built. Affirms Gerald Gurss, "I work to define our best selves." ▮

Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus
www.tcgmc.org
www.tcgmc.org/2022/06/28/season-42-tickets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"Edward Tulane"

Kicks Off New Season for The Minnesota Opera

BY HOLLY PETERSON

Minnesota Opera just opened its 2022-2023 season, and we are off to a great start. The long-awaited world premiere of "Edward Tulane" finally made its way to the stage in St. Paul this October and everything about the show suggests that we are in for a strong opera season.

The opening of "Edward Tulane" was a milestone for many reasons. It is a world premiere. It has a Minnesota connection (Kate DiCamillo, the author of the 2006 book, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, is based out of Minnesota). It is also largely considered kid-friendly since the story follows the life of a stuffed rabbit.

It was fun to see kids at the opera, but in case my tentative language hasn't already tipped you off, I think it is a bit of a stretch to call "Edward Tulane" kid-friendly. The pacing of the show is deliberate, the humor is generally grown up, and it takes significant suspension of disbelief to imagine that the adults playing the first several children are not adults. The presence of a man in a rabbit costume does very little to mitigate that, charming though he may be.

I happened to sit next to a kid during the performance – he was maybe around ten years old – and although he didn't fidget or complain, he also never laughed and barely responded to his adult's stage whispers. She exclaimed over twists and turns in the plot as poor Edward Tulane bounced from one loving home after another and the kid barely nodded or shrugged in response.

That said, I found the opera delightful and would recommend it in heartbeat. I might even play the hypocrite and bring a niece or a nephew along if *Edward Tulane* ever returned to Minnesota. After all, the kid I sat next to could easily have been having a blast but respected the theater too much to squirm in his seat.

The costumes and set design in "Edward Tulane" are perhaps the best part of what is an overall very strong show. Delightfully, there is an actual stuffed rabbit that actor Jack Swanson follows around. Dressed in rabbit ears, face paint, and whatever costume the rabbit is currently wearing, Swanson helps bring the stuffed rabbit to life without ever letting us forget that Edward is a stuffed rabbit.

At the top of the show, Edward Tulane's first owner is told a fairy tale by her grandmother and a cast of brightly colored, geometrical characters emerge to help tell it: a prince encaged in cardboard armor, a king that is just an oversized head, and a princess in bright orange spandex (speaking of which, I have a bone to pick with whoever made that incongruous choice.) There is also an incredibly fun scene in a doll shop in which every performer holds a doll version of themselves. Sitting in tiers as though displayed on shelves, the stage fairly explodes with the color of the life-sized dolls and every last mini-me. Another scene takes place underwater – an oversized Edward Tulane towers over the stage as he sits at the bottom of the ocean, surrounded by darkly hued fish accented with strips of colorful lights. It is stunning, weird, and lovely.

Photo by Cory Weaver. Photo courtesy of Minnesota Opera

Of course, the performances were incredible. The orchestra was strong, and the vocalists had both classically beautiful and silly moments of music in which to play vocally. Brian Vu as Bryce, Jasmine Habersham as Sarah Ruth, Lisa Marie Rogali as the dog, and Zachary James as the witch, were favorites of mine.

I would be remiss not to also mention that part of why this premiere felt so special: "Edward Tulane" was supposed to premiere in March 2020. The original premiere was canceled due to the pandemic and now, two and a half years later, it has finally made its way back to the stage. It feels good, albeit different, to be back in a theater. Many of us are wearing masks. Several of the conversations I overheard in the lobby centered around the last time people saw an opera live or other concerts and performances that have been rescheduled after pandemic-related cancellations. But it is so good to not only be back, but also to finally see a show that was delayed for years.

If you missed out on "Edward Tulane," worry not! That show was only the first of an exciting season. Minnesota Opera has two more shows at the Ordway and two at the Luminary Arts Center.

Next at the Ordway we can look forward to "The Daughter of the Regiment" (February 4-12). It is fair to call this 1840 opera a romantic comedy. Unbeknownst to the soldiers around her, the canteen girl is an aristocrat – what will happen when her past catches up to her? Will the love she has found in a villager survive the revelation of her true lineage?

Also at the Ordway is "Don Giovanni" (May 6-21). This opera is, of course, a classic. Written by Mozart in 1787 with a libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte, this tale of a womanizer who suffers the consequences of his debauchery is comedic, dark, and maybe a little cathartic.

The Luminary Arts Center is featuring two shows this year: "Rinaldo" and "The Song Poet." For the unfamiliar, this former warehouse was converted into the Lab Theater by The Guthrie in 1988. In 2019 Minnesota Opera acquired the space and this season marks the first performances in the historic building.

"Rinaldo" (November 19-December 3) is another classic: written by Handel in 1711, this Italian Opera is a love story full of magic and peppered with war. The show is as heart-warming as it is hilarious.

"The Song Poet" (March 9-19) brings the Minnesota Opera season full circle with another Minnesotan book adapted to opera – this time a memoir. The book, also called *The Song Poet*, is the first Hmong story adapted to opera and tells the story of a family grappling with war through poetry.

Minnesota Opera is putting in the work to ensure that its values of diversity and equity are visible on the stage and in the background. The institution continues to showcase classic, beloved shows, but the inclusion of new operas like "Edward Tulane" and "The Song Poet" along with intentional casting bodes well for an amazing year of opera. ∎

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The Holiday Season 2022

A Listing of Entertainment and Activities

BY LAVENDER

GLOW Photo by Sarah Dope. Opposite page, Guthrie Theater. Photo by Mark Vancleave

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www.childrenstheatre.org

"A CHRISTMAS CAROL"
November 12 – December 31
Wurtele Thrust Stage, Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis
Tickets from $20.00 – $134.00
www.guthrietheater.org/shows-and-tickets/2022-2023-season/a-christmas-carol/

THE NUTCRACKER BALLET
November 17 – 19
Paramount Center for The Arts, St. Cloud
Tickets from $18.00 – $21.00
www.paramountarts.org/event/nutcracker_2022/

"MISS BENNET – CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY"
November 18 – December 18
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Brave New Workshop, 824 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis
Tickets $40.00
www.hennepintheatretrust.org/events/the-best-christmas-show-in-three-years-824-hennepin-minneapolis-mn-2022-2023/

BENTLEYVILLE "TOUR OF LIGHTS"
November 19 – December 26
700 Railroad St., Duluth
FREE Admission, Parking $10.00
www.bentleyvilleusa.org

"GEORGIANA & KITTY: CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY"
November 19 – December 23
Jungle Theater, Minneapolis
Tickets up to $92.00
www.jungletheater.org

GLOW HOLIDAY FESTIVAL
November 23 – January 1
CHS Field, St. Paul
$20.75/Adults; $12.75/Children aged 4-12
www.glowholiday.com

FESTIVAL OF TREES
November 24 – December 5
Grand Ely Lodge Resort and Conference Center, Ely
www.exploreminnesota.com/event/festival-trees/9907

CIRQUE DREAMS HOLIDAZE
November 25 – 26
Orpheum Theatre, Minneapolis
Tickets from $33.00 – $103.00
www.hennepintheatretrust.org/events/cirque-dreams-holidaze-orpheum-theatre-minneapolis-mn-2022/

GREAT THEATRE: "IRVING BERLIN'S WHITE CHRISTMAS"
November 26 – December 11
Paramount Center For The Arts, St. Cloud

Tickets $36.00
www.paramountarts.org/event/whitechristmas/

"BLACK NATIVITY"
November 29 – December 24
Penumbra Theatre, Minneapolis
Tickets from $20 – $45
www.penumbratheatre.org/event/black-nativity-5

BIG BAND HOLIDAYS: JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA
November 30
Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis
Tickets from $52 – $100
www.minnesotaorchestra.org

KAT PERKINS – "A NORTH COUNTRY CHRISTMAS"
December 2
Mayo Civic Center, Rochester
Tickets from $12.00
www.mayociviccenter.com/event/kat-perkins-a-north-country-christmas/58200/

THE NEW STANDARDS HOLIDAY SHOW
December 2 – 3
State Theatre, Minneapolis
Tickets from $29.00 – $134.00
www.hennepintheatretrust.org/events/the-new-standards-holiday-show-state-theatre-minneapolis-mn-2022-2/

NUTCRACKER! MAGICAL CHRISTMAS BALLET
December 2 – 3
Orpheum Theatre, Minneapolis
Tickets from $33.00 – $113.00
www.hennepintheatretrust.org/events/nutcracker-magical-christmas-ballet-orpheum-theatre-minneapolis-mn-2022/

NORTHERN LIGHTS FESTIVAL
December 2 – 4
Mayo Civic Center, Rochester
Tickets from $15.00 – $17.00
www.mayociviccenter.com/event/northern-lights-festival/57039/

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Photo courtesy of Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus

OVER THE RIVER HOLIDAY FESTIVAL
December 3
Fergus Falls
www.ffriver.org/otr/

AN INTIMATE CHRISTMAS WITH LORI LINE
December 3
Masquerade Dance Theater, Ames Center, Burnsville
Tickets $65.00
www.ames-center.com/806828.html

A MAGICAL CIRQUE CHRISTMAS
December 3
Mayo Civic Center, Rochester
Tickets from $36.00
www.mayociviccenter.com/event/a-magical-cirque-christmas/57156/

"AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS"
December 3 – 18
Skylark Opera, Andy Boss Thrust Stage at Park Square Theatre, St. Paul
Tickets from $25
www.skylarkopera.org/upcoming-events

"JINX AND DELA HOLDAY SHOW LIVE"
December 6 – 7
Fitzgerald Theatre, St. Paul
Tickets start at $49.00
www.first-avenue.com/event/2022-12-the-jinkx-dela-holiday-show/

MISS RICHFIELD 1981 "CANCEL CULTURED CHRISTMAS PEARLS"
December 8 – 18
Tickets: General Admission $45, Limited VIP $75
www.illusiontheater.org

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM JOSE JAMES
December 9 – 10
The Dakota, Minneapolis
Tickets start at $40.00
www.dakotacooks.com/event/merry-christmas-from-jose-james-2/

"SHALL WE PRANCE?" – TWIN CITIES GAY MEN'S CHORUS
December 9 – 10
Ted Mann Concert Hall, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
Tickets from $17.50 – $60.00
www.tcgmc.org/2022/10/20/shall-we-prance/

THE BLENDERS – HOLIDAY SOUL TOUR 2022
December 9 - 11
Pantages Theatre, Minneapolis
Tickets $48.00
www.hennepintheatretrust.org/events/the-blenders-holiday-soul-tour-2022-pantages-theatre-minneapolis-mn-2022/

VOCALESSENCE: "WELCOME CHRISTMAS"
December 10 – 11
Carlson Family Stage at the Northrup Auditorium, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
Tickets from $22.00 – $40.00
www.northrop.umn.edu/events/vocalessence-welcome-christmas-2022

ROCHESTER DANCE COMPANY PRESENTS THE NUTCRACKER
December 10 – 11
Mayo Civic Center, Rochester
Tickets from $17.00
www.mayociviccenter.com/event/rochester-dance-company-presents-the-nutcracker/58245/

MERRY & BRIGHT WITH CHARLES LAZARUS
December 11
Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis
Tickets from $43 – $78
www.minnesotaorchestra.org

HOLIDAY EVENING WITH KRISTIN CHENOWETH
December 13
Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis
SOLD OUT
www.minnesotaorchestra.org/tickets/calendar/holiday/a-holiday-evening-with-kristin-chenoweth/

"AN ANDY AND BING CHRISTMAS"
December 13
Paramount Center For The Arts, St. Cloud
Tickets from $24.00 – $29.00
www.paramountarts.org/event/andybing_2022/

LOYCE HOULTON'S NUTCRACKER FANTASY
December 16 – 23
State Theatre, Minneapolis
Tickets from $19.00 – $129.00
www.hennepintheatretrust.org/events/loyce-houltons-nutcracker-fantasy-state-theatre-minneapolis-mn-2022/

"CHRISTMAS WITH CANTUS: INTO THE LIGHT"
December 16
Ordway Concert Hall, St. Paul
Tickets from $25.00 – $48.00
www.ordway.org/events/christmas-with-cantus-into-the-light

"ELF IN CONCERT"
December 17 – 18
Orchestra Hall, with the Minnesota Orchestra, Minneapolis
Tickets from $50.00 – $107.00
www.minnesotaorchestra.org

"HOLIDAYS WITH BING"
December 22 – 31
Schneider Theater, Bloomington Center For The Arts, Bloomington
Tickets $48.00
www.artistrymn.org/bing

TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA: "THE GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS EVE"
December 23
Xcel Energy Center, St. Paul
Tickets from $70
www.st-paul-theater.com/theaters/xcel-energy-center/trans-siberian-orchestra-the-ghosts-of-christmas-eve.php ▮

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About Putting Up Decorations At Your House...

BY SUSAN SWAVELY

One of the most beloved traditions of these chilly holiday months is looking at all the beautiful decorations and twinkling lights on our homes and businesses. Seeing string lights wrapped around roof edges, wreaths on front doors, Christmas trees in living rooms, Menorahs on mantels, stockings above the fireplace—all of it gives such a warm, fuzzy feeling that our loved ones are close by, and it's that wonderful time of year again.

However, spreading holiday cheer through decorating your own personal gingerbread home can get a little tougher as you get older, and the weather conditions of the Upper Midwest are no help either. That's why we talked to Renda Baird of Renda The Roofer for some insights on putting up your Holiday decorations this year—so you could stay safe and toasty this winter and still get to spread the joyful holiday spirit!

Renda The Roofer, who has been deemed the "Ted Lasso of Home Exterior teams," can aid you in decorating your home this holiday season. She prides herself on her "Farm Girl Values," which include hard, hands-on work, and believing that every homeowner "deserves first-class customer service." Her team specializes in home exteriors, covering all of the preplanning and projections you could possibly need.

While Renda The Roofer provides services year-round, this season is particularly focused on holiday decorations, and the importance of staying safe while doing it. Renda says, "We just do good work for nice people…everyone needs something." Service from Renda's team includes "affordable trip charges and free consultations over the phone" as well as all the other needs surrounding holiday decorating. Renda describes their services at Renda The Roofer (RTR) as "full service," saying, "We go over the full exterior to decide what the best plan is." RTR also offers no contract inspections. Renda elaborates, "Nothing should be an emergency these days… you really just need to have a pre-plan for what-ifs, so we help people review aging options on all fronts—anything from access entries, insurance coverage needs, etc. We try to do what we can with what we have."

Decorating for the holidays can be difficult or even dangerous for a multitude of reasons, especially as you get older. Tangled string lights are the least of your worries, and on the other hand, cold, icy weather, using ladders to get on elevated surfaces, and protecting yourself while using electrical cables can be a huge concern. Renda says, "The biggest issue out here is training and handling ladders; safety issues for the homeowners and the workers are key. You need to know who you hired and who's going to show up."

Renda The Roofer's team take special care

in making sure all projects are safe for everyone involved, even if you just need some advice on how to do it yourself. Renda explains, "I always say it's a team sport and we're just the coach!" Her team will have the individualized advice and services you need! As the RTR motto states, "Anyone can start a job…. it takes real professionals to finish it!"

Going out in the cold to decorate can really take you out of the holiday spirit if you don't have a good plan going in. Renda jokes that putting up holiday lights can wait past the cold season, "don't do it… just wait 'til Spring!" But in all seriousness, call Renda The Roofer for all of your outside decorating questions and needs. If you need lights or decorations help—she's the gal for you! Renda The Roofer is open for business Monday-Friday, 9:00am-6:00pm, daily. They're closed on the weekends; however, emergency texts are taken 24/7, and some projects may occur outside of RTR's normal business hours, including the weekends. ▮

Contact Renda The Roofer!
Phone, call or text: (612) 508-9396
Email: RendaTheRoofer@gmail.com
www.Rendatheroofer.simplybook.me

BY E.B. BOATNER

Seeing Gender: An Illustrated Guide to Identity and Expression

Iris Gottleib
Chronicle Books
$19.99

Gender is intensely personal, and widely misunderstood. Gotttlieb has created this compendium to answer and explain concerns from both within the LGBTQIA+ communities–and without. "Anatomy doesn't determine gender!" is a basic lesson, and the following succinct, illustrated topics offer a broad and reassuring overview of the many people that make up this human condition. Privilege, gendered clothing, medical bias, and many other issues are include. An excellent and accessible reference source.

Mr. Watson's Chickens

Jarrett Dapier, Illustrated by Andrea Tsurumi
Chronicle Books
$17.99

An eye-catching romp of a book for young and old(er). Mr. Nelson lives with Mr. Watson, who keeps chickens; three at first, but, as chickens will, they proliferate–to the point Mr. Nelson announces he must leave, unless there's a reduction in the exploding 456. Movement, rhyme, rhythm, nonsense squawks, and the realization friendship prevails. It's lonesome that night, but comes a chipping, a cheeping, a nonsense squawk from under Mr. Watson's pillow: 1,2, 3, and it begins again!

Bathe the Cat

Alice B. McGinty, Illustrated by David Roberts
Chronicle Books
$17.99

Housework runs gloriously amok as this household decides who will do what, and who, indeed, must bathe the cat. In rhymed orders, the directions are mixed and mashed "Dad, you mow the floor!/Bobby, rock the dishes!/ Sarah, bathe the rug!/I'll mop the fishes!" The ridiculous ring-changes offer beginning readers a handle on the words, and the kaleidoscopic movements show this mixed household in high gear. Cat, smirking, remains high and dry. A charmer!

Leech

Hiron Ennes
Tordotcom Publishing
$27.99

Dark, apocalyptic, absorbing, Ennes isolates us with their characters in a winter-riven isolated castle. A new Institute doctor has arrived…no, not new, the old in fresh flesh, to inspect its own corpse, infected by a thready black, retro-orbital parasite. The Medical Institute maintains a hive of renewable, enmeshed practitioners– parasites themselves. Will this new entity replace them? Why is the new leech cut off from its kind? Will two escape? When Gift whispers, "Gothic!" slip them Leech.

The Touch of Her Voice

Sara Scott
WordCraft
$8.99

Jensy Wilett is respected, honored for her college basketball prowess, yet a youthful secret ruins promising romances. Smitten by a coup de foudre for law student Sophie Barnes, Jensy gives herself to Sophie, vows to herself to bury the past. But can she? The interesting premise Scott offers is that even after years, the past can reach out with consequences. What is friendship? What is the tensile-strength of love? The enduring power of forgiveness? Book II of this trilogy, *The Sound of Her Smile*, is in final edit.

All That Moves Us: A Pediatric Neurosurgeon, His Young Patients, and Their Stories of Grace and Resilience

Jay Wellons
Random House
$28

Wellons shares (with patient's permission) the harrowing and hopeful aspects of his delicate invasions of children's damaged brains. He has learned, over his twenty-five years as a surgeon, that heart is as vital as the cerebral regions, and that while not all the stories have happy endings, the patient and family have been treated throughout the breadth of the treatment as valued–and loved–human beings. A moving and enlightening read.

They Drown Our Daughters

Katrina Monroe
Poisoned Pen Press
$16.99

A child's death echoes down the generations, enmeshing Meredith Strand, who, separated from her wife moves back to Cape Disappointment with daughter, Alice, to live with her own mother, Judith, succumbing to Alzheimer's. Told in flashbacks to the original 1881 tragedy, we follow Meredith's efforts to find the truth behind the curse of the place. A "haunted" lighthouse once drew tourists; does it hold the key? There's "something in the water," insists Judith. Her encroaching illness, or…? ▮

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Photos by Randy Stern

Podcasts for Your Vehicle's Infotainment System

BY RANDY STERN

Once upon a time, we had one option for in-vehicle entertainment: The radio.

The AM band gave us the world when we were out on the road between cities. The radio waves gave us shows from the networks through local affiliates. Some major cities put out their signals for hundreds of miles – clear channel broadcasts powered by 50,000-watt amplifier.

Then came FM Radio. In-vehicle phonographs – that didn't work, right? Eight-track cartridges did, which gave way to cassettes and compact discs. Plus, there's satellite radio – another band of broadcast programs!

Now, you can tie-in your smartphone to your vehicle either through a USB cord or without one. The screen on the center stack now looks almost like your phone. The apps pop up, giving you options to stream your favorite music directly from your phone or through the magic of a cellular signal.

That is where we are at right now. The smartphone has taken over your life. Social media and texting are what we do the most these days. On a regular occasion, we will tie in our ear buds to listen to our Spotify playlist when we're working out.

It is no longer a mystery that most new vehicles come with some form of tethering between your smartphone and the audio system of your vehicle. Not just to operate your vehicle without picking up that device for calls and texts. But, to open up a wide world of music and information to keep you entertained on the road.

Over the past couple of decades, we have been peeling the proverbial onion to find new ways to fill your vehicle with entertainment op-

Continue on page 38

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tions. All of our anthems are filtered through a multitude of speakers that redefine high fidelity – not just Beyonce, Brandi Carlisle, RuPaul, or Sam Smith.

There is one area where we are not fully represented: LGBTQ broadcast content.

A few years ago, SiriusXM closed the only LGBTQ radio station on their service – OutQ. They dispersed key talent to other stations, including Larry Flick and Michelangelo Signorile. Yet, there are options for us through various music and talk stations across the satellite service.

One such option is listening to a podcast.

A podcast is the most likely place to find LGBTQ content that can be streamed or listen to through your vehicle's infotainment system and/or the USB connection.

Recently, we featured the "This Queer Book Saved My Life" podcast in this magazine. It is one of many LGBTQ podcasts out there. So many that it will take up half of this issue to list and summarize.

However, I picked out a few that might be of interest to you. Some of which have been listed on various websites and publications as being "the best" among a multitude of podcasts out there covering our community.

"Las Culturalistas": If you're a fan of "Saturday Night Live"'s Bowen Yang, then this is your podcast. He and fellow New York University alumnus Matt Rogers interview some of the biggest luminaries out there. Somewhere between Trixie Mattel and everyone else is a podcast that strays away from pop iconography and just concentrate on their guests.

"WOW Report": The team behind the entire career of RuPaul Charles created their own podcast to discuss everything and anything. World of Wonder co-founder Fenton Bailey is joined by James St James and Tom Campbell for an engaging look at news events, current trends, and some LGBTQ history.

"Still Processing": Hosts Jenna Wortham and Wesley Morris take you through a vast land of cultural touchstones – both past and present. All with a point of view through the black LGBTQ experience. This combines a whole host of ideas, references, and observations that will make your listening more thoughtful. Start from their first episode and work your way through to all they have to offer you.

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www.ourcathedral.org

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1200 Marquette Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 332-3421
www.westminstermpls.org

SOCIAL SERVICES

Lutheran Social Service of MN
Serving all Minnesotans with person-centered services that promote full and abundant lives.
lssmn.org | 612-642-5990 | 800-582-5260
Adoption & Foster Care | welcome@chlss.org
Behavioral Health | 612-879-5320
Host Homes | hosthomes@lssmn.org
Supported Decision-Making | 888-806-6844
Therapeutic Foster Care | 612-751-9395

YOUTH

Face to Face
Supports youth ages 11-24 with healthcare, mental health services & basic needs services for youth experiencing homelessness.
1165 Arcade St.
St. Paul, MN 55106
(651) 772-5555
admin@face2face.org
www.face2face.org

The Bridge for Youth
Emergency shelter, crisis intervention, and resources for youth currently or at risk of experiencing homelessness.
1111 W. 22nd St.
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 377-8800 or text (612) 400-7233
www.bridgeforyouth.org

QUEERSPACE collective
Creating space for LGBTQ+ to feel safe and empowered to be their true selves through mentorship.
Minneapolis, MN
info@queerspacecollective.org
queerspacecollective.org

THE NETWORK

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stephen.rocheford@lavendermagazine.com

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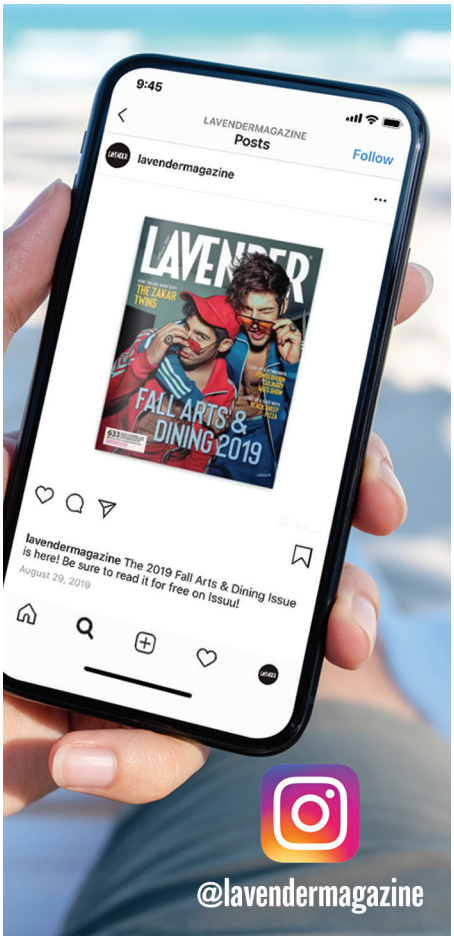

"Sibling Rivalry": Speaking of "RuPaul's Drag Race," all you need to know about this podcast are two of its winners: Bob The Drag Queen and Monet X Change. You give these Good Judys a couple of microphones and it's on! Each episode is worth many good laughs…and a few catchphrases to add to your cultural vocabulary. Soon you will be saying "drag her" before you know it.

"Making Gay History": Based on his groundbreaking book, Eric Marcus continues his initial run of interviews from 1992 and tuned them into new episodes to fit the modern form of podcasting. It is a masterclass of teaching our past to all LGBTQ generations. You get more than just what you read in his – and other books and articles – on this podcast.

"Hoodrat to Headwrap": Described as a "decolonized podcast for lovers on the margins," hosts Ericka Hart and Ebony Donnley take you through a journey of a history of racism and how they approach life through this lens. It is a lens worth listening to, especially if you share their experience. The hosts refuse to shy away from the most uncomfortable of conversations – and that is worth listening to.

"Nancy": It has not been in production for quite some time, but this podcast is worth exploring on a lonely stretch of road. Hosts Tobin Low and Kathy Tu take a deep dive into LGBTQ life and society through interviews and stories told through advocacy. As the LGBTQ community evolves and changes, the messages put forth by this podcast are still relevant to any listener within the sound of their voices.

"Breaking Form Podcast": If you want your poetry with some tea, Washington College poetry professor James Allen Hall and co-host Aaron Smith take on the world of poetry with the humor and shade found on the LGBTQ-est podcasts. One listen to any episode will tell you that there's nothing stuffy about loving poetry anymore.

Listening to these podcasts – and more – are easy. Both Apple iOS and Google's Android operating systems have podcast player apps that already installed on your device. Both apps are available when you mirror your device to either Apple CarPlay or Android Auto. You can also download other third-party podcast apps from either phone's app store.

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